Distribution of compensation amongst Bhopal Gas victims

646. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what steps have since been taken to distribute the compensation amount amongst the victims of UCC gas-leak accident of 1984 at Bhopal plant, following the judgement upholding the February 1989 settlement of $ 470 million?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): Adjudication of claims and distribution of compensation is to be carried out under the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme, 1985. The Scheme, *inter-alia*, provided for a Welfare Commissioner with appropriate assistance to undertake the process of adjudication and compensation. The Welfare Commissioner is in place and the process of adjudication should commence by the 3rd February, 1992, the date which the Supreme Court has fixed for commencement of the process.

647. [*Transferred to the 4th Decembed*, 1991]

Fresh claims of Bhopal Gas victims

648. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh are not entertaining fresh claims from the Bhopal gas victims on the ground that they did not have enough funds; and

(b) if so, what steps Union Government propose to take to mitigate the hardships of such gas victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Requirement and production of Urea

649. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Urea required each year and the quantity of Urea produced each year in the country during the last 3 years;

(b) whether Government propose to formulate any programme to increase its production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The quantum of Urea required and the quantity of Urea produced during the last three years is given below:—

(In lakh MT)

Year	Quantity Produced	Demand
1988-89	118·58	128·72
1989-90	124·81	141·23
1990-91	128·35	147·37

NOTE : The demand as given above includes an element of pipeline stock which is about 10% of anticipated consumption.

(b) and (c) Proposals for doubling the capacity of existing plants at Vijaipur, Aonla and Jagdispur to give an additional capacity of 21,78 lakh tonnes of Urea per annum have been identified for the Eighth Five Year Plan. Four new plants are currently under implementation at Shahjahanpur (U.P.), Babrala (U.P.), Gadepan (Rajasthan) and Kakinada (A.P.) with a total capacity of 26.73 lakh tonnes of Urea per annum. Another plant of 2.54 lakh tonnes capacity is contemplated in Krishna Godaveri besin.

650. [*Transferred to the 6th December, 1991*]

Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme

651. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of fertilizer subsidy being paid at present by Government under the Retention Price-*cum*-Subsidy Scheme; and

(b) the amount of freight subsidy being paid by Government to cover transportation charges for fertilizers from production units to rail heads and block headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The Budget provision for subsidy payable on indigenous fertilizers by the Government under the Retention Price-*cum*-Subsidy Scheme during the current financial year 1991-92 is Rs. 2386.65 crores.

(b) The budget for the freight subsidy during the current financial year 1991-92 is Rs. 513.35 crores.

Reduction/exemption of duties on various drugs

652. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of bulk drugs and intermediates on which custom and excise duty have been reduced or exempted during the current year and what is the extent of reduction in each case;

(b) what are the names of drugs and intermediates for which requests are still pending for reduction and exemption of duties and since when each is pending and reasons therefor;

(c) what was the objective of reduction in each case and to what extent it has been achieved so far;

(d) whether price of any finished medicine has been reduced following the reduction/exemption of duties on bulk drugs, intermediates, raw materials and formulations;

(e) if so, what was the earlier price and what is the revised price after reduction or exemption of duties;

(f) what was the loss of revenue on account of above action; and

(g) what is the reduction in prices of formulations after the custom duty as Ibuprofen, cetramide was reduced and what is the earlier and reduced price of each?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The names of bulk drugs and intermediates on which customs and excise duty have been reduced or exempted during the current year are available in different notifications issued by the Ministry of Finance in the month of July/September 1991 and which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) The proposals of custom duty reduction o fe:xemption are examined in this Department as and when received and recommendations are sent to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance on Merits and case to case basis. It is an on going process;

(c) to (g) The objective of reduction, exemption in duty is to encourage the production of bulk drugs from the more basic stage and is not linked necessarily